

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-7 were previously cancelled.

This amendment does not add, change and/or delete claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Claims 8-20 (13 claims) are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

On page 2, paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 8-13 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hashimoto (USPN: 5,724,722). The Examiner contends the Hashimoto discloses a component placement device comprising:

an elongated transport (e.g. 17, Fig. 1) device that is configured to transport a substrate (e.g. S) in a transport direction parallel to the transport device.

In response, Applicant submits that element 17 is a pair of tracks that extend in the Y-Y axis direction. The tracks 17 are supported above the table 12. The tracks do not “transport a substrate” as stated by the Examiner. (see col. 3, lines 15-17 and Fig. 1)

The Examiner further contends that Hashimoto discloses:

at least one component feeder (e.g. 14) that is located along a longitudinal side of the transport device;

at least one component pick-and-place unit (e.g. 19) that is configured to:

(a) pick-up a component (e.g. C) from at least one component feeder; and

(b) place the component on the substrate; and

a substrate(S) support that is situated along a longitudinal side of the transport device (e.g. 18) and that faces away from the at least one component feeder (e.g. 14), the substrate support extends perpendicular to the transport direction (column 5, lines 1-18).

Applicant submits that element 18, identified by the Examiner as a transport device, is a carriage 18 that moves in the Y-Y direction along the tracks 17 as shown in Fig. 1 of Hashimoto and discussed at col. 3, lines 15-20. The substrate S is not supported by carriage 18 as stated by the Examiner, but instead moves below the carriage 18 on a conveyor section 13. (see col. 3, ll. 5-6). The carriage 18 supports the pick-and-place 19. (See Fig. 1)

The Examiner's reference to Col. 5, lines 1-18 of Hashimoto is not relevant because that section of Hashimoto discusses an optical detector 37 and recognition methods and not how the substrate S is supported.

Independent claim 8 of the present application recites a component placement device that comprises, among other things, an elongated transport device, at least one component feeder, at least one component pick-and-place unit and "a substrate support that is situated along a longitudinal side of the transport device and that faces away from at least one component feeder, the substrate support extends perpendicular to the transport direction." In contrast Hashimoto teaches a substrate support (conveyor) 13 that extends parallel to the transport direction X-X. (see col. 3, ll. 5-9 and Fig. 1 of Hashimoto)

Independent claim 20 recites a component placement device that comprises, among other things, an elongated transport device, a component feeder that is located only on one longitudinal side of the transport device, at least one component pick-and-place unit, and a "substrate support that is situated along a longitudinal side of a transport device on an opposite side of the transport device from the component feeder, the substrate support extends perpendicular to the transport device."

In contrast, Hashimoto, as stated above, provides a substrate support 13 that extends parallel to the transport device. Further, Hashimoto discloses component feeders 15 on both sides of the transfer device 13.

Accordingly, since Hashimoto does not disclose each and every limitation of independent claim 8 or independent claim 20, Hashimoto does not anticipate that which is claimed in the present application under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). The rejection should be withdrawn for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claims 9-19 depend from independent claim 8 and therefore also are patentable over Hashimoto. (see 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶4)

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

On page 4, paragraph 5 of the office action, the Examiner has rejected claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto in view of Togami, et al (USPN: 5,855,059).

Claims 14 and 15 depend from independent claim 8. As stated above, independent claim 8 is patentable over Hashimoto for at least the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, claims 14 and 15 are also patentable over Hashimoto (see 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶4). Togami, et al does not teach that which is missing in Hashimoto and therefore the rejection of claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is improper. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw his rejection of claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

* * *

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

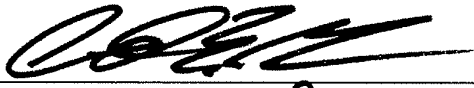

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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